इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) भारतीय भू-वैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण ने हाल ही में मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में हीरे और सोने के लिए पूर्वेक्षण कार्य किया है। रायपुर जिले के प्यालीखण्ड-बेहराडीह क्षेत्र में हीरे और बस्तर जिले के टोकापाल, डुंगनपाल, मजेरीपदार और पाराकोट में चार किम्बरलाइट पिण्डों का पता चला है। गुडहारपहाड़ ब्लाक, सिधी जिला, इमालिया ब्लाक, जबलपुर जिला और पंदरीपानी ब्लाक, रायगढ़ जिले में किए गए गवेषण में स्वर्ण संसाधनों की संभावना का भी पता चला है।

(ख) और (ग) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश खनन निगम लि० को मध्य प्रदेश के 11 जिलों में स्वर्ण और हीरा संसाधनों का गवेषण और विदोहन करने के लिए राज्य सरकार का एजेंट नियुक्त किया है। मध्य प्रदेश में हीरे के लिए खनन पट्टे की मंजूरी हेतु राज्य सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। तथापि, रायपुर जिले के बेराडीह ब्लाक में4600 वर्ग कि० मी० क्षेत्र में हीरा निक्षेपों के सर्वेक्षण, गवेषण और मूल्यांकन के लिए मैसर्स बी० विजयकुमार छत्तीसगढ़ प्राईवेट लि० रायपुर (मध्य प्रदेश) के पक्ष में पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस की मंजूरी के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है। चूंकि प्रस्ताव खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 के प्रावधानों और उसके अंतर्गत बनाए गए नियमों के अनुरुप नहीं था, इसलिए राज्य सरकार को कुछ मुद्दों के संबंध में सूचना / स्पष्टीकरण देने का अनुरोध किया गया है। राज्य सरकार से सूचना / स्पष्टीकरण प्राप्त होने पर पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस की मंजूरी संबंधी प्रस्ताव पर आगामी कार्यवाही की जाएगी। हाल ही में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को एक अनुस्मारक भेजा गया है और उनसे अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे सूचना तत्काल भेज दें ताकि केन्द्र सरकार गुणावगुण आधार पर और कानून के प्रावधानों के अनुसार मामले पर आगे कार्रवाई कर सके।

Acquisition of land adjacent of VSP

3062. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has acquired a vast tract off Vizag Steel Plant Land;

(b) whether consent to VSP authorities was taken before acquiring the land? and

(c) the action proposed to get in exchange land adjacent to the plant to ensure subsequent expansion plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) No, sir. However, there is a proposal for reconveyance of 1100 acres of land from Vizag Steel Plant to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose of development of a minor port at Gangavaram. This is subject to certain conditions including inter-alia transfer of 1100 acres of land in exchange to the Steel Plant.

Bailing out of private steel plant

3063. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI has recently bailed out certain private steel companies; if so, the details thereof?

(b) what is the total capacity utilisation of such private plants and the capacity achieved by them during the last two years; and

(c) what is the status of restructuring plan of IISCO and the financial assistance including plan allocation to IISCO during last one year and the extent of assistance so utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994 for determination of measures in regard to the future of the company. SAIL have submitted a proposal, which inter-alia includes writing off accumulated losses, to revive IISCO in a Joint Venture (JV) partnership with M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee Debt Funds for which an Inter Governmental Agreement between the

Government of Russia; and Government of India is required. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 2107 crores. Govt. of India's efforts in this direction culminated in the signing of a Protocol in the Fifth Session of Indo-Russian Inter Russian Governmental Commission in November, 1998. In the Protocoal, it has been proposed to use a part of India Rupee Debts as contribution of the Russian side to the Joint Venture Company.

Accordingly, Govt. of India have already formally presented to the Russian side the draft of an agreement which could be signed between the two countires. The response of the Russian Govt. is awaited. However, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

As regards financial assistance to IISCO Govt. of India had released Rs. 10 crores for implementation to VRS scheme in 1997-98 and Rs. 10 crores in 1998-99 for the same purpose. IISCO had incurred Rs. 16.39 crores in 1997-98 for the VRS scheme and as on 22.3.1999 they had utilised Rs. 6.70 crores.

Grant of planning/design allowance to engineers of CPWD

3064. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministerial Anomaly Committee has identified the anomaly in the pay scale of Assistant Engineers of CPWD and recommended higher pay scale to them;

(b) if so, what is the time frame fixed to remove the anomaly;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even after specific recommendations by the fifth CPC, the Planning/Design allowance is not yet granted to Junior Engineers, Engineers Assistant Engineers, Executive of CPWD; and

(d) if so, what efforts are made by his Ministry for granting the allowance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHANDERU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) It is a fact that an Anomaly Committee constituted in this Ministry had recomended that grant of higher pay scale of Rs. 7500-12000 to all the Assistant Engineers of the CPWD instead of 50% posts as recommended by the 5th Pay Commission. The recommendation of Anomaly Committee are under consideration of the Government. No definite time frame can be fixed for taking a decision in the matter.

(c) and (d) The 5th Pay Commission have recommended grant of Planning/Designing allowance to various categories of officers posted in the Headquarters, Design & Planning Units. The CPWD have proposed that the Planning/Design allowance may be granted to all categories of staff deployed on Planning/Designing work in the Divisions/Circles/Zones as well.

Provision of Electricity and water for Dwarka Residents

3065. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Delhi edition of the Statement dated 13th March, 1999 captioned, "Sinking without a trace";

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) the details of measures taken with time frame to provide electricity and water supply to Dwarka houses;

(d) whether there is proposal to construct under bride/flyover at the railway level crossing from the IGI airport side to access Dwarka; if so, when this will be operational; and

(e) if reply to part (d) is in the negative, the reasons therefor?